

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA

1. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND FOUR INJURED WHEN SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS (PST, IN FORMATION) APRIL 27 FORCIBLY OCCUPIED AN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA AND TOOK MORE THAN SIXTY UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES HOSTAGE. THE HEAVILY ARMED PST IS STILL HOLDING BUILDING ALTHOUGH SOME EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE PUEBLA STATE GOVERNMENT, POSSIBLY WAITING FOR GUIDANCE FROM THE GOM, HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY ACTION TO DISLODGE PROTESTORS.

2. PST CLAIMS THAT RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY, AN ACKNOWLEDGED MEMBER OF THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) HAS BEEN UTILIZING UNIVERSITY FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE PCM PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND THAT HE RUNS THE UNIVERSITY "JUST LIKE THE PRI WOULD-- SUPPRESSING EVERY CONTRARY IDEA". RECTOR, MEANWHILE, DENIES THAT PROTESTORS ARE LEFTISTS, ALLEGING THAT THE "SAME FORCES WHICH HAD THE 'CLANDESTINE MEETING' IN MONTERREY" ARE BEHIND THE TROUBLE. SEVERAL LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING THE PCM, THE MEXICAN PARTY OF WORKERS (PMT, ALSO IN FORMATION), THE DISSIDENT ELECTRICAL WORKERS OF RAFAEL GALVAN, AND BOTH A TEACHERS AND EMPLOYEES UNION OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HAVE RALLIED TO THE RECTOR'S SIDE. GOM SECURITY OFFICIALS HAVE HAD LITTLE COMPLAINT WITH THE

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PCM RECTOR, WHOSE LEADERSHIP THEY'VE FOUND MODERATE.

3. THE PST IS A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE PMT, THE LATTER LED BY HEBERTO CASTILLO AND DEMETRIO VALLEJO. LARGELY A STUDENT BASED ORGANIZATION DISENCHANTED WITH THE MORE MODERATE LEADERSHIP OF OLDER LEFTISTS SUCH AS CATILLO AND VALLEJO, THE PST HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS ORGANIZING SUGAR CANE WORKERS IN VERACRUZ. UNTIL NOW, IT HAS NOT OPENLY CLASHED WITH OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS AND EVEN PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH 20 RALLY OF THE GALVAN GROUP.
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